PETZHOLDT

Illy

Illy dear Sir! Illy dear

Your wonderful magneto-electric apparat, You have invented 1833 is the cause of a dispute between myself and a certain Doctor and Prof. Heil from Munich. This very arrogant and how it seems, totally ignorant man, travelling about Germany with magnets, exposes to publick sight a magneto-electric apparat, which is in the same manner constructed as Yours, and declares open in lectures and news-papers to be the inventor of it.

I had answered, You were the inventor, and had recoursed to Poggendorf's Annales, where You will find a notice, which shows You had the first published this apparat 1833 (June).

But Heil calls me a liar, and affirms, that he had left England 1833 (May), that at this time nobody had known a like machine; that Faraday himself no other manner had exercised in provoking an electric sparkle, then in tearing of the anchor from the magnet; that he (Heil) had invented his machine without knowing who You were or what for a machine was the Yours; finally, that Mr. Fara-

day, whom he had seen and spoken very often, would attest all this.

My dear Sir, I am blamed, if You would not have the goodness to answer me the following questions, but in a manner, that I can make use of it publicly, if I am in the right.

1) Do You know Mr. Zeil?
2) Can You remember the time, Zeil was in London, or Zeil had left London?
3) Have You spoken with him over this magneto-electric machine, or had he spoken over it with Mr. Faraday?
4) Call me the time accurately, when You have invented the bespoken machine.
5) What do You think of Mr. Zeil, or what thinks Mr. Faraday of him?

Pray be so quick as possible in answering.
Believe me to remain

My dear Sir

Your Servant
Alexander Petzholdt
Doctor of Med. and Surgery.

Dresden
in Saxony
29 July 1840

Undoubtedly the saxon ambassy will bring back
Your answer in the shortest time.

DSI

PETZHOLDT, ALEXANDER (Doctor of Medicine and Surgery)

A.L.S. to an unnamed correspondent (perhaps James Muspratt, Manufacturing Chemist at Liverpool).

2pp. 8vo. Dresden: July 29th. 1840. £4/10/-

FLETCHER-64

Saying that his correspondent's "wonderful magneto-electric apparat" was the cause of a dispute between himself and Dr. Keil from Munich. Dr. Keil was going about Germany with an "apparat" which was exactly the same as his correspondent's invention, ~~and Kiel was declaring the same as his correspondent's invention~~, and Keil was declaring himself to be the inventor of it, both in lectures and in the newspapers. In Poggendorf's Annales, it was recorded that his correspondent invented the apparatus in June 1833. Keil affirms "that Faraday himself no other manner had exercised in provocing (sic) an electric sparkle, then in tearing of the anchor from the magnet, that he (Keil) had invented his machine without knowing who you were....." Faraday would attest to this. Petzholdt sets out five questions, asking his correspondent to reply to them, one of which was whether he had ever spoken to Keil or Faraday about this invention.

The letter is frayed at edges.

22,Buckingham Gate,

London.S.W.1.

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